

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /014 W

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R 191550Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3367

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALGIERS 3383

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, OEXC

SUBJ: VISIT OF DR. COOK

REF: (A) STATE 230722 (B) ALGIERS 3122 (C) ALGIERS 3297

(D) STATE 267122 (E) ALGIERS 3331 (F) ALGIERS 3355

(G) STATE 270742 (H) USINT BAGHDAD 1180

1. DR COOK FAILED TO ENTER ALGERIA, THUS DEALING SECOND  
SUCCESSIVE BLOW TO PROGRAM OF BILATERAL MEDICAL COOPERATION  
WITH ALGERIAN MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

2. WITH NO WARNING TO EMBASSY, DR. COOK ARRIVED WITHOUT  
AN ENTRY VISA. AIRPORT POLICE EOMMISSARIAT REFUSED ENTRY  
AND ESCORTED HIM TO AIRCRAFT FOR RETURN TO PARIS. WHEN SECRETARY  
GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTRY INTERVENTION LATER OBTAINED BY  
TELEPHONE, TAKEOFF HELD UP WHILE POLICE COMMISSIONER  
BOARDED AIRCRAFT TO BRING IN DR. COOK. COMMISSIONER  
RETURNED ALONE FROM PLANE, HOWEVER, SAYING THAT DR. COOK  
HAD REFUSED TO COME IN.

3. PAO APOLOGIZED TO MINISTRY OFFICIALS AT THE AIRPORT  
WHO WERE UNDERSTANDING, BUT WHO NOTED THAT MINISTRY COULD  
HAVE ARRANGED AN AIRPORT VISA HAD THEY BEEN INFORMED IN  
ADVANCE.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS THE SECOND MEDICAL VISIT TO END  
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IN FIASCO. THE FIRST BEING DR. CORDAY OF THE COLLEGE OF

CARDIOLOGY. IN BOTH CASES, THE ALGERIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH WENT TO GREAT PAINS TO SET UP A PROGRAM AND WAS LOOKING FORWARD KEENLY TO THE VISIT. IT IS HEARTBREAKING AND VERY EMBARRASSING TO ME PERSONALLY TO HAVE SUCH PLANS COLLAPSE AND I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER WE CAN COUNT ON THE GOOD NATURE OF THE MINISTRY NEXT TIME AROUND.

5. IN BOTH CASES, THERE SEEM TO HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS WHICH INDICATE THAT INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION HAD BEEN PAID TO DETAILS. IN PARTICULAR, NO REPEAT NO TRAVELER SHOULD COME TO ALGERIA WITHOUT A VALID VISA. (CORDAY ALSO WOULD HAVE ARRIVED WITHOUT ONE.) ANYBODY DEALING WITH PROGRAMS WHICH MIGHT POSSIBLY SEND SOMEONE HERE SHOULD HAVE THAT FACT ENGRAVED ON HIS MEMORY. IF, AS SOMETIMES HAPPEN IN SPITE OF THE BEST EFFORTS, THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT LEARN BEFORE THE MAN'S DEPARTURE THAT HE HAS NO VISA, PLEASE ALERT US. GIVEN SUFFICIENT TIME WE CAN ARRANGE TO HAVE THEM ISSUED WITH AN AIRPORT VISA, ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS. IN THE CASE OF DR. COOK, REFS (C), (E), (F) AND (G), ALL OF WHICH HAD PRECEDENCE INDICATORS RANGING FROM PRIORITY TO NIACT IMMEDIATE, ASKED FOR HIS SCHEDULED ARRIVAL, BUT ONLY THE LAST WAS ANSWERED. THERE WAS NO CLUE THAT DR. COOK DID NOT POSSESS A VALID ENTRY VISA.

6 FINALLY, DR. COOK DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE BEEN A VERY GOOD SPORT. WE ARE SORRY IF HE WAS INCONVENIENCED, BUT CAN ASSURE HIM IT WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO THAT WHICH WE HAVE SUFFERED.

LYNE

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